



Pumpkin Facts

The name pumpkin stems from the Greek word for large melon, pepon. American Colonists changed the name to pumpkin. Native Americans dried strips of pumpkin and wove them into mats. The strips of pumpkin were also roasted and consumed. The origin of the pumpkin pie started with the colonists. They would slice off the pumpkin top, remove the seeds and fill the shell with milk, spices and honey. The pumpkin would be baked in the hot ashes.

In Ireland and Scotland, people would carve scary faces onto turnips and potatoes. The carved items would be placed into the windows to scare away wandering evil spirits. In England large beets were used. Immigrants from these countries brought over this tradition when they arrived in the United States. It was found



that pumpkins, a native fruit to America would make the perfect Jack O' Lantern. (U of I Extension/History Channel)



Your Township Officials

- SUPERVISOR John Pihl 815-943-5598
- TOWN CLERK Jennifer Pihl
- HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER David Nolan 815-943-5751
- ASSESSOR Geri Alten 815-943-4444 or fax 815-943-4600 or dunham.assessor@gmail.com
- TRUSTEES Dennis Bischke David Binz Ruth Coffey Kevin Schultz
- WEBSITE: www.toi.org/dunhamtownship

Solar Warning Lights

Warning lights have been installed on STOP AHEAD and

STOP SIGNS in Dunham Township.



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From the Desk of the Road Commissioner

MOWING

We are coming to the end of our summer season and gearing up for Winter. The crew will mow the right-a-way one more time, this time it will be from fence to fence. This will allow snow to blow across the road and into the open field. During summer we only mow one round to save money and have a place for the birds and *wildlife*. You may have noticed we are losing a lot of fence line which provides habitat for *wildlife*.

ROADS

This year we reconstructed Windy Hill Rd. In the spring the road was almost unpassable. The crew added a culvert, removed most of the bad spots. Over 200 truckloads of clay, large rock, and old black top and 4 inches of new gravel were added to the road bed. The crew also moved the ditch back and cut it deeper. Removing the trees and brush to the fence line allows the sunlight in and helps dry the road which then keeps the ice off during the winter.

Repair work was completed on Fritz. The rerouting of all traffic down Fritz Road after a truck accident on Rt. 23 destroyed it. The Road Commissioner asked and received a check for \$43,455.00 from the truck company to cover the cost.

The crew also chip sealed Lembke Road from Rt. 23 to the township line and replaced some culverts.

A sealer was placed on Bunker Hill from Rt. 23 to Island Rd. This will help to save the road from moisture entering the cracks and freezing.

Fourteen miles of gravel were placed on the road shoulders. Shoulder gravel is on Country Line Rd., parts of Dunham and Streit Roads from Flat Iron to County Line. Placing the gravel on the road shoulders will prevent the edge of the road from breaking off. There are plans to do more this Fall.

I would like to thank the residents of Dunham Township for their calls, it helps us greatly to keep our roads safer and looking nice.

The removal of 10 large dead trees and some old fence lines took place. A brush and tree mower was rented to trim back trees on Country Line, Streit and Pagles roads. The crew performs this task every three to four years to keep the right-a-way clear.

The crew patrols Dunham Township roads two to three times a week to pick up trash, dead animals, check the roads and signs for damage. I would like to thank the residents of Dunham Township for their calls. It helps us greatly to keep our roads safer and looking nice.

Dunham Township employs one full-time employee and two part-time employees. We also invite our court service individuals and the McHenry County road crew to help keep Dunham Township Roads safe; that helps save labor cost.

Our equipment is old but in very good condition. We have a limited budget to maintain forty-four miles of roads. We have always stayed in budget as do other road districts in McHenry Country. I would like to thank our crew for doing a great job and keeping our residents safe.

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David Nolan, Road Commissioner



Notes from the Dunham Township Assessor's Desk

I know by now everyone was informed of their assessed value for the 2016 assessment year.

The biggest question was how could my assessment go up so high. Here is the simplest answer.

"A minimum of 25 useable sales (arms-length transactions) are needed to conduct a sales ratio study" states the Department of Revenue.

In Dunham Township, there were less than 25 and in six other townships this also occurred. The county then has the right to take these seven townships "Good Sales" and do a Sales Ratio Study to arrive at the multiplier.

This year the seven townships are Dunham, Alden, Coral, Hartland, Hebron, Riley and Seneca. You might notice all seven townships are west of Route 47.

When the multiplier is positive, like this year, (1.0836) adds to the current assessed value. If it

is a negative number as in 2014 (.9641) the assessed value is decreased.

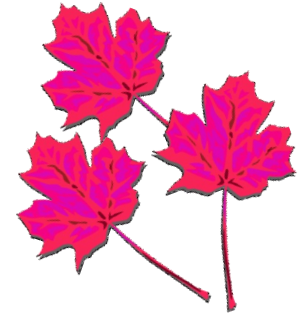
The positive multiplier was applied to the 2016 assessed value increasing all of our assessed values except farm buildings and farm land.

As seen in the past, decreasing assessed values does not decrease the real estate tax bill. However, a higher assessed value **does not always** mean a higher real estate tax bill.

The sale prices are rising and just as the assessed values went down when sale prices went down. The assessed value will go up when prices go up.

In 2007 the housing crash started, it did not really hit Dunham Township until late 2008 and most notably in 2009.

I will paraphrase what was once said in an old movie, Fasten your seat belts, it will be a bumpy ride.



A higher assessed value **does not always** mean a higher real estate tax bill"

MEETING HALL IS AVAILABLE

Need a place to hold a meeting or host a special event? Give us a call at 815-943-4444 or fill out the form from the website. Check out our website: www.toi.org/dunhamtownship



DUNHAM TOWNSHIP

107 Airport Road
Harvard, IL 60033



FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK

Sweet Potato & Black Bean Chili

1 tbsp. & 2 tsp extra virgin olive oil

1 med- lg sweet potato, peeled & diced

1 lg onion, diced

4 cloves garlic, minced

2 tbsp. chili powder

4 tsp cumin

½ tsp ground chipotle chili (omit if prefer mild chili)

¼ tsp salt

2 ½ c water

2 15 oz. cans black beans, rinsed

4 tsp lime juice

½ c chopped fresh cilantro

Heat oil in a Dutch oven over medium heat. Add sweet potato and onion; cook stirring often, until the onion begins to soften. Add garlic, chili powder, cumin, salt, & chipotle (if using). Cook stirring constantly for 30 seconds. Add water and bring to a simmer. Cover and reduce heat to a gentle simmer and cook until the sweet potato is tender, 10-12 minutes. Add the beans, tomatoes, and lime juice. Increase heat to high and return to a simmer, stirring often. Reduce heat and simmer until slightly reduced about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and add cilantro. Make a double batch and freeze the extra. Eating Well Test Kitchen

